

Proverbs 28-29, Feb 2, 2025 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study

Overview:

Today, we are backtracking to chapter 28 and continuing on with chapter 29 focusing on the topic of leadership.

Commentary:

In the Government and General Leadership:

28:15 “Like a roaring lion and a rushing bear is a wicked ruler over a poor people.” Instead of helping them, he uses his position to take advantage.

28:16 “A leader who lacks discernment abounds in oppressions, but he who hates greedy gain will prolong his days.” Unskilled leaders create unnecessary hardship for their people. However, those who have integrity will have a great legacy. God rewards righteous leadership and makes unskilled leaders a stink in their people’s noses. Like Carter, & LBJ, I suspect that the Biden Whitehouse will go down as one of the worst. Additionally, this applies on every level of influence, at home, work, and in all areas of government, and with friends.

28:28 “When the wicked rise, men hide themselves; but when they perish, the righteous increase.” Some translations have, “when the wicked rise *to power...*” We saw this with the last presidential administration. It is indeed the role of political powers to reward righteousness and punish wickedness. Romans 13:3 gives us the role of government “to punish evildoers.” When government does not do that, they forsake their God given mandate and reflect their hatred towards their people.

V2 is an observation about good and bad government. Of course, there is an indication about the character of that government included in this proverb. Goodness and gladness go together. Wickedness and weariness are partners.

V4 The king or any ruler creates strength when he executes justice. Evil, wicked, bribery destroys. ***Strong men build. Weak men tear down.*** Their weakness affects everyone else. Our sin always has consequences for other besides ourselves.

Bribes, specifically, create terrible conflicts of interest that ultimately destroy people by destroying their businesses and livelihoods.

V12 What the leader does, the followers do also. Bobby Pruitt “What leaders do in moderation; followers do in excess.” **Everyone leads by example whether good or bad.**

V14 God sees the justice of a king and rewards him with a great legacy. Be that kind of king, of your house, workplace, neighborhood, etc.

V18 When people don’t have any vision or idea of what they are trying to accomplish or be, they all go their own way. Blessing comes from obeying God.

Leadership lesson: how many times does the leader need to say something? Answer: as many times as it takes for the followers to hear and understand. When people are complaining, they are saying two things: 1) they are followers instead of leaders because leaders seldom complain and if they do, they offer solutions to the problems. So, complaining is just a sign that they are followers, not yet leaders. 2) they have forgotten why they are doing or not doing what they are doing. They have lost sight of the purpose of whatever task or job they have been given. It is the leader’s responsibility to constantly remind them of the purpose of the job, task, or responsibility they have.

Say it again, and again, and in different ways as long as it takes. Communication is work. Be a leader and stop complaining about having to lead. This applies to the government, the church, the workplace and your home. Lead well and cast vision. Tell them the bigger reason why you’re doing what you’re doing. Say it as much as necessary. Correct, rebuke, train, again and again.

V26 rulers should be the ones to execute justice but ultimately, justice comes from the LORD. Lev 19:18 and Rom 12:19 both remind us that God will repay and therefore, we do not have to insist on getting vigilante justice if the government does not do their job. It is their job to do it and we should strive to remind them and hold them accountable to that. However, if they fail, we are to remember that God sees and hears everything and will be the supreme judge.

Matt 20:25; Mk 10:42; Lk 22:25... “Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

1Pt 5:3 “nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.”

2Cor 1:24 “Not that we lord it over your faith, but are workers with you for your joy; for in your faith you are standing firm.”

Conclusion:

Be a great leader. Be a great boss, ruler, husband and father. Serve your people by leading them well and being a man of conviction, righteousness, and skill.

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You for Your word and the wisdom it provides. Help us to understand and obey it. Make us men of wisdom full of grace and truth. Make us wise and faithful for Your glory. Make us mighty men, pulling in the same direction for the cause of Christ. For Him and His covenant... for a thousand years by the work of the Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.